

**City of Chilliwack**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020, 3:30 pm**  
**Held Electronically**

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**Council Members:**

Councillor Jeff Shields, Chair  
Councillor Jason Lum, Vice Chair

**TAC Members:**

Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce  
Corporal Mike Pfeifer, RCMP, Traffic Section  
Bryden Nelmes, Community Member  
Chelsea Cromarty, Community Member  
Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit  
Adriana McMullen, Senior Transit Planner, BC Transit  
Jim Ryan, Community Member  
David Swankey, SD33 Board Member  
Wayne Williams, SD33, Manager of Transportation

**City Staff Members:**

Kara Jefford, Manager of Transportation and Drainage  
Samantha Piper, Public Safety Specialist  
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:**

Mike Weightman, ICBC  
Stephen Head, Community Member  
Neal Moulton, Area Manager, Fraser Valley South, Ministry of Transportation  
David Hill, Road Safety Engineer, ICBC  
Kevin Pollard, Supervisor – Roads, Transportation, Drainage:

**Guest:**

Chris Gregory, Senior Revenue Advisor, BC Transit

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Jeff Shields was Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved /       )    That the Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda for Thursday, September 17,  
Seconded     (    2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved /       )    That the Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting held  
Seconded     (    Thursday, June 25, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION / PRESENTATION****5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS****Chilliwack Transit Update**

Rob Ringma, Senior Manager, Government Relations, BC Transit, provided an update regarding the following:

**Ridership Update**

A graph was presented illustrating the 2019 ridership numbers and what has happened to ridership after COVID-19 hit. In the middle of March 2020, there was a dramatic drop in ridership with the Province announcing public health restrictions. Since that time, BC Transit (BCT) has seen a gradual steady increase in ridership. At the low point, the provincial average was over a 70% drop in ridership compared to one year ago with a rebound of approximately 50% versus ridership last year. Of note; however, there was not the typical spike in ridership in September 2020 compared to last year in 2019 when school and post-secondary school started, which could be attributed to various factors including high schools across the province implementing different bell times. The largest impact on current ridership is post-secondary education moving to on-line classes.

**Budget Update**

BC Transit is currently working on budget amendments to account for:

- Reduced Ridership and Revenue estimates
- Any services reductions made to better align service to ridership
- Increased COVID-19-related cleaning and operations costs
- Reduction of vehicle lease fees (6-month lease fee holiday from BCT)
- Addition of any operating reserve or local transit funds requested to be applied

**Transit Future Action Plan - Update**

Adriana McMullen, Senior Transit Planner, BC Transit, explained the purpose of the 2020 Chilliwack Area Transit Future *Action* Plan (TFAP). The TFAP is an update to the Chilliwack Area Transit Future Plan (TFP), which was completed in 2012. The TFAP identifies the next group of priorities and charts the progress of the TFP targets which include:

- improvements for service and infrastructure over the next one to five years;
- revised transit routes
- opportunities to support Transportation Master Plan to increase transit mode share to 2%

**Timeline**

An overview of the timeline of the TFAP was provided. An update was provided regarding service changes, progress on implementing the TFP, performance (ridership by route), long-term growth and near-term local growth.

**Public Engagement**

Adriana McMullen provided information regarding the public engagement that took place regarding the TFAP with an estimation of approximately 1000 people participating. Public input was provided with respect to improvements to frequent and local service, regional connections to Metro Vancouver and TransLink's systems, increased service on the Fraser Valley Express (FVX) routes and expanded FVRD service. Improved infrastructure was also a topic such as more bus shelters, benches and lighting.

**5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)****Short, Medium and Long-Term Priorities**

BCT has a number of initiatives regarding the short-term priorities (1-2 years) and medium-term priorities (3-5 years). These initiatives could happen as a service bundle or independently as the community desires. Long-term priorities (5+ years) were provided regarding the assessment of the different mode-shares and the annual investment being made.

The draft Transit Future Action Plan will be circulated to the Committee in advance of the next Transportation Advisory Committee prior to the final report being brought forward to Council.

**Fare Review Report**

Chris Gregory, Senior Revenue Advisor, BC Transit provided an overview of BC Transit's Fare Review Report which was developed in collaboration with the City of Chilliwack. The report includes information regarding the following:

- BC Transit's Fare Strategy
- Direction of future fare collection technology
- New fare structure option for Chilliwack

**BC Transit Fare Strategy**

BC Transit's Fare Strategy has guided decision making towards improving net yield of fare revenues. (revenue collected after costs of revenue collection are deducted)

**DayPASS-on-Board Program**

BC Transit recommends the removal of transfers on account of issue that stem from the subjective nature of their use ie: potential for fare evasion. Under this program, a customer pays two times the base fare upon boarding the bus, either with cash or two tickets, and the operator provides them with a dates paper DayPASS. The customer can then travel throughout the transit system for the remainder of the calendar day.

**Future Fare Collection**

BC Transit is currently working towards introducing new electronic fare collection technology in place of existing fare boxes. This initiative is part of BC Transit's SmartBus strategy to enhance technology on board buses.

**Current Conventional Fare Structure and Performance**

A graph illustrating the current Chilliwack Transit System fare structure was provided which has been in effect since September 2013.

**Key Performance Measures** were provided which include the trend analysis of annual ridership in Chilliwack over the past five years. Revenue in the Chilliwack Transit System has shown an increase over the past five years.

**Fare-Related Considerations**

The Committee was provided with considerations specific to the Chilliwack Transit System as a part of the fare review process which included:

- Complimentary Youth Transit
- Current Transfer Policy and DayPASS-on-Board
- Family Travel Program

**5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS (continued)**

**Proposed Conventional Fare Options**

Option 1

Introduces the DayPASS-on-Board program and aligns to BC Transit Fare Strategy structure using a \$2.25 base cash fare.

Option 2

An alternative to complimentary transit and represents the estimated impact of reducing the student/senior monthly pass and student semester pass.

Option 3

An incremental change based on a \$2.00 cash fare.

\*All options include the removal of transfers, implementation of the DayPASS-on-Board and alignment to the expected fare structure for electronic fare collection.

Chelsea Cromarty provided her choice of Option 2 and left the meeting at 5:00 pm.

BCT noted that regardless of electronic fare collection technology, cash will still be accepted as BCT is aware that cash is still very much widely used.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is aware of the TFAP and the proposed recommendations such as the Youth Free Transit pilot; Vice-Chair Lum noted the recommendation for the pilot was approved by Council on August 6, 2019 and brought to the budget meeting in November 2019 for Council’s consideration. The pilot project was been delayed due to budget and administrative issues caused by COVID-19. Vice-Chair Lum suggested deferring the recommendation for the Youth Free Transit pilot.

A recommendation to Council was made; however, regarding the following:

Moved / ) That the proposed conventional and custom fare structure approved for  
Seconded ( implementation on April 1, 2021, as outlined within the Fare Review Report from BC Transit dated August, 2020, be option two which simplifies the fare structure in preparation for electronic fare collection technology; that the timeline for the roll-out of the fare increase coincide with the planned Transit Future Action Plan; that the proposed aligning custom fares be approved; that the regional use of Hope and Agassiz-Harrison DayPASS-on-Board fares on the Chilliwack system when DayPASS-on-Board is implemented regionally; and that the Family Travel Program be approved.

Carried

**6. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**

**7. OTHER**

**Pedestrian Plan Update**

Staff provided an update regarding the Pedestrian Plan which was put on hold due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions and the large community engagement component involved. The City of Chilliwack has moved forward in choosing a new virtual consultation platform in order to engage with the public. It is currently being utilized by some neighbouring municipalities with success. The purchase of the software has been implemented and a new Request for Proposal (RFP) will move forward this fall. An update to the Pedestrian Plan will be brought forward to the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting early in the New Year.

**Ministry of Transportation – Fraser Valley Transportation Study**

Kara Jefford, Manager of Transportation and Drainage provided an update to inform the Committee that staff have been involved with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) in the early stages of the Fraser Valley Transportation Plan (Fraser Valley Integrated Transportation and Development Plan). The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs are involved in the study as the plan includes transportation as well as land use. MOTI has not started their public engagement phase yet; however, will be moving forward with public engagement in the near future. There will be opportunity for MOTI to provide more information at a future Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

Neal Moulton, Area Manager, Fraser Valley South, Ministry of Transportation could not attend today's meeting; however, he provided an update via email below to share with the Transportation Advisory Committee:

'The Fraser Valley Integrated Transportation and Development Plan is a broad, comprehensive, multi-modal study that seeks to address the rapid growth the region has experienced in recent years. The scope of the study is still being refined, but is currently considering the main growth areas in the region (Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission), the rural communities as far east as Hope, and the connection to Metro Vancouver through Langley, Surrey, and Maple Ridge. As a multi-modal plan, we are considering not only drivers and goods movement, but active transportation, transit, marine, and air connections. The study will also have a greater focus on growth scenarios and economic development to better integrate land use with our transportation investments. We are expecting to have recommendations for the short, medium, and long term.

Another aspect to this study, will be to incorporate comments from key stakeholders, such as the Chilliwack TAC group. Moving forward, the MOTI planning group will be holding numerous engagement opportunities to seek focused and direct comments from a variety of stakeholders within the Fraser Valley.'

**8. INFORMATION**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The Committee will hold an additional Transportation Advisory Committee meeting which will be scheduled for October 2020.

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**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.

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Councillor Jeff Shields, Chair